ACTION
DIA:

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cjcs ats jj (14) js (22) js: nhq secdef (87) secdef:
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mc washingotn dc

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file(1)

(b)(3): 10 USC 424
15. DIK: NO. REMOVED TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.
16. SUMMARY: (U) THIS IR FORWARDS INFORMATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD HIGH HOPES OF REHABILITATING A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THIS NUMBER. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THE ARMY'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATED THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE LAST ELEMENTS OF RESISTANCE WERE ELIMINATED. (IR) REPORTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 4000 PERSONS ARE DETAINED UNDER EXECUTIVE POWER.)

2. (CONFIDENTIAL) THE SOURCE TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EXCESSES AS WELL AS ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HE RATIONALIZED THE PROBLEM BY EXPLAINING THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON A YOUNG OFFICER OR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER WHO HAS LOST FRIENDS IN THE STRUGGLE. NEVERTHELESS, HE STATED THAT THE ARMY RECOGNIZES THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO SLOW DOWN THE AGGRESSIVENESS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTER SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS. IN EARLY TO MID JULY, THE ARMY ISSUED INSTRUCTION TO PRINCIPAL FIELD COMMANDERS TO CENTRALIZE CONTROL OF COUNTER SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS. COMMANDERS WERE TOLD TO TIGHTEN UP CONTROL AND RESCIND PERMISSIVE ORDERS TO OPERATIVE UNITS, UNMARKED AUTOMOBILES WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM JUNIOR PERSONNEL AND THOSE INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION WERE IDENTIFIED AND INCARCERATED. MAJOR UNITS WERE INSTRUCTED TO CARRY OUT CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS AND OR MILITARY MANEUVERS IN ORDER TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARMY RANKS.

3. (CONFIDENTIAL) SOURCE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE RESTORATION OF CONTROL OVER THE FORCES WOULD BE A SLOW AND TIME CONSUMING OPERATION. HE LIKENED THE SITUATION TO A LOCOMOTIVE, BY SAYING THAT ONCE THE MACHINE IS IN MOTION IT IS DIFFICULT TO SLOW IT DOWN DUE TO ITS MOMENTUM. WHEN SOURCE WAS ASKED IF MANY POLICEMAN AND OR MILITARY WERE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, HE RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT ONLY A FEW HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED. HE ADDED THAT THIS...
SITUATION IS VERY TICKLISH SINCE THE ARMED FORCES CAN NOT AFFORD TO DESTROY THE MORALE OF THE TROOPS WITH PUBLIC CONDEMNATIONS OF THE GUilty. CONSEQUENTLY, MOST OF THE OFFENDERS ARE DEALT WITH INTERNALLY AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY. HE SEEMED PLEASED THAT NOT TOO MANY OFFICIALS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSES ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER IN THE FEDERAL POLICE AND A FEW IN THE ARMY. TO EMPHASIZE THAT JUSTICE WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, HE TOLD THAT FOUR NCO'S WERE APPREHENDED LAST WEEK AND PUT IN JAIL.

COMMENT: (C) THE SOURCE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC IN HIS APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS AN EFFORT UNDERWAY TO BRING THINGS UNDER CONTROL, WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE SOURCE SUGGESTS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THE MILITARY HAVE FINALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH A BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM AND ARE APPARENTLY TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO REVERSE THE SITUATION. THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY.

GDS DEC 83.
BT
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ANNOTES
LJS JOE 117